SKELMERSDALE
Champion
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Trophy incentive for schools to support mayor

Pupils' festive gifts boost for needy

Town crier rings in Lancashire Day celebrations

West Lancs Don Evans makes his Lancashire Day proclamation

A NUMBER of events were staged across West Lancashire to mark Lancashire Day on Sunday, November 27 with borough town crier Don Evans once again figuring prominently.

The Ring O'Bells at Lathom staged a concert and traditional hot-pot supper on the day itself, while Don Evans delivered the annual Lancashire Day proclamation in both Ormskirk and Southport on Saturday, November 26.

Marketing Lancashire, the organisation charged with growing the county's visitor economy, launched a social media campaign this year to help raise awareness of Lancashire Day which takes place each year on November 27.

As part of the campaign social media users were asked to illustrate their love of Lancashire and its landscape, food and culture with photography tweeted on Twitter using #LancashireDay or posting on the Visit Lancashire Facebook or Instagram pages.

COUNCIL PLAN TO BAN DOGS FROM MORE PLAY AREAS

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs Council is proposing to ban dogs from a further 26 children's play areas in the borough - including 12 in Skelmersdale and three in Up Holland - with the aim of helping to keep children safe and reduce problems with dog fouling.

The authority is also planning to require dogs to be kept on leads in five specified areas in public parks and playing fields.

These five areas have been chosen because there are other publicly-accessible areas nearby where dogs can be exercised without restrictions.

Residents and organisations are now invited to give their views on the proposals, so they can be taken into account before final decisions are made.

The list of proposed restricted areas is provided on the council website www.westlancs.gov.uk/yourviews along with details of how to submit comments.

Parks in Skelmersdale set to be subject to the proposals include Banksbarn in Digmoor; Alderley, Little Digmoor and Stanley Coronation Park in Old Skelmersdale.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's cabinet member for health and community safety, said: "Dogs are already excluded from 43 children's play areas under Dog Control Orders introduced by the council in 2009. These restrictions have been successful in keeping these areas safe for children.

Stanley Coronation Park in Skelmersdale

"Now we propose to introduce similar restrictions in other play areas in the borough, and in addition to impose restrictions requiring dogs to be kept on leads in five other locations.

"I encourage people to visit the council's website to find out where these play areas are, and to give their views, so they can be taken into account when the council meets in December to make decisions."

People are invited to give their views at www.westlancs.gov.uk/yourviews. They can also send their comments by email to: publicspaceconsultation@westlancs.gov.uk or write to: Environmental Protection and Community Safety Manager, WLBC, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, West Lancashire, WN8 8EE.

The consultation runs from Monday, November 28 until Tuesday, January 3.

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Health commissioning group launch GP weekend services pilot

Report by **Henry James**

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire can now access GP services at weekends, thanks to a new extended hours service pilot.

Launched this month by NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), the new service allows residents to see a GP, a practice nurse and attend phlebotomy appointments on Saturdays, from 10am until 4pm and Sundays from 10am until 2pm at the Sandy Lane Health Centre in Skelmersdale.

The new service is available to all patients in West Lancashire, with appointments made simply by going through their usual GP surgery.

In addition, from the week commencing Monday, January 2, the service will be extended further, with additional GP appointments available on Thursday and Friday evenings from 6.30 to 8pm at the Walk-in Centre at Ormskirk and District General Hospital.

Dr Peter Gregory

This new pilot is a result of NHS England's General Practice Forward View, which is a national guide for primary care services over the next five years. Within the guide, it states that GP access in England is to be improved to provide greater GP access to the population at evenings and weekends within the next five years.

Dr Peter Gregory, a GP at Parkgate Surgery in Ormskirk and clinical lead at NHS West Lancashire CCG, said: "GPs in West Lancashire have been listening to the concerns of residents when it comes to difficulty in accessing GP appointments during the week.

"The new extended hours service will now allow all residents to see a GP or practice nurse at a time that is convenient to them.

"From the start of the new year, with the pilot being extended further, this will allow greater flexibility and availability, as we offer appointments midweek, during the evening.

"Although currently at pilot stage, we are hoping that it will be well received and something that we can run in the future."

Primary school recognised in regional awards scheme

A WEST Lancashire School has been recognised in a prestigious regional awards scheme.

Bickerstaffe Church of England Primary School was named runner-up in the Community Partnership Award section of the Educate Awards 2016 held at the Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral on Friday, November 18.

The awards, now in their fifth year, are the biggest celebration of education in the North West.

On the night, a total of 21 awards were handed out to schools in Lancashire, Merseyside and Cheshire for a variety of projects and skills, from entrepreneurial awareness, dazzling stage performances and creative literacy initiatives, to inspiring community partnerships.

Kim O'Brien, founder of the Educate Awards, said: "The number of entries we received is testament to the excellence and hard work seen in our schools and colleges across the North West. We are proud to host this event which champions the creativity, diversity and dedication of schools in Merseyside, Cheshire and Lancashire."

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MP 'hopeful' for future of Glenburn Sports College sports pitches after ownership of site reverts to county council

Report by **Henry James**

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has welcomed the transfer of ownership of the former Glenburn Sports College site back to Lancashire County Council, and said it "offers an opportunity to save the Glenburn sports pitches for future community use".

Following the closure of the former Glenburn Sports College in Skelmersdale in July 2016, ownership of the site was passed to the Department for Education.

Subsequently concerns were raised by the local community over the future use of the state-of-the-art 3G floodlit football pitch on the site.

Since then a number of parties have expressed an interest in taking over the ownership and running of the facilities.

Rosie Cooper said: "Having already lost the sports centre, it is imperative that local schools and the Skelmersdale community have access to these facilities."

Ms Cooper tabled a series of written Parliamentary Questions with the Department for Education to call on them to ensure the sports pitches remained available to the local community.

She also raised the issue with Sport England.

In their response they state they are keen to explore the potential to retain access to the Glenburn site now that ownership of the site has transferred to Lancashire County Council.

Speaking on the most recent development, Ms Cooper said: "It would be scandalous if these state-of-the-art sports facilities in the heart of Skelmersdale were left to go to wrack and ruin.

"The town has already lost other sports facilities, it cannot afford to lose this one as well.

West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper is trying to save the sports facilities at the former Glenburn Sports College

"Now the site ownership has transferred to Lancashire County Council we need to get on with securing the future of the sports pitches.

"I will continue to work with Lancashire County Council, Sport England and the various interested parties wanting to take on the sports pitches to make sure they are saved for the benefit of the local community."

Eddie Sutton, head of development and corporate services for Lancashire County Council, responded: "We are currently looking into options to ensure that these sports facilities can still be used and enjoyed by local people.

"While we don't provide leisure facilities, we're looking to find an organisation to take them on.

"This work is still at a very early stage, as the government has only recently decided to transfer the site to us.

"We're also looking at options for the rest of the Glenburn site, although the transfer back to the county council does bring significant additional costs."

County's new road safety strategy to focus on reducing number of child victims

A NEW report highlights that a major focus for Lancashire County Council's new road safety strategy will be to tackle the high numbers of children killed and seriously injured on the county's roads.

The report to the county council's cabinet committee for performance improvement outlines studies showing that Lancashire has among the highest rate of child casualties nationally.

Over the last five years the annual total has fluctuated between a low of 60 in 2012/2013 to a high of 83 in 2011/2012. In the 12 months to June 30 2016, 79 children were killed and seriously injured on the county's roads.

Analysis has found that most incidents happen when children are walking. The vast majority involve children suddenly running, stepping or cycling into the road, often on streets where visibility is reduced by parked cars.

Other common factors in collisions are children using pedestrian crossings, parents losing control of younger children when crossing the road, children moving together in groups, and distraction.

Dr. Sakthi Karunanithi, director of public health for Lancashire, said: "The number of people who are killed or injured on our roads has fallen considerably over the last decade, but the number of incidents involving children, and particularly child pedestrians, remains higher in Lancashire than many other areas.

Responsibility

"Some districts in Lancashire have among the highest rates of child casualties in the UK, and there are common features of these incidents which suggest we need to look at new ways to encourage everyone to take more care on the roads, and particularly influence children to stay safe when out and about.

"Road safety is everyone's responsibility and we need everyone to help prevent deaths and injuries on our roads by staying alert and driving carefully."

A range of existing work to reduce child casualties is also described in the report, which includes education programmes tailored to different age groups as children progress through their school career and gain more independence; bikeability training, which sees around 10,000 children a year learn how to cycle more safely; 335 active school crossing patrols; training community champions and delivering community events to check that people have correctly fitted child car seats; resources for schools to discourage illegal and inappropriate parking around the school gates; and school and community Roadwatch schemes.

Dr Karunanithi added: "I hope this report helps to raise awareness of this issue, and the common causes of these incidents involving children so that people are in a better position to encourage participation in our road safety education programmes and reinforce road safety messages."

Skelmersdale police community support officer Nicholas Markwick with the jingle bells

These jingle bells will start alarms ringing and help deter pickpockets

MENTION of the words jingle bells at this time of year usually conjures up visions of the popular festive tune.

But for Skelmersdale Police jingle bells equals another valuable weapon in the fight against crime.

For officers in the town have just taken delivery of a new batch of jingle bells to attach to valuables to deter pickpockets.

The little bells can be attached to purses and wallets and will start ringing if they are being tampered with.

Officers were at the Concourse shopping centre on Friday (November 25) handing them out to shoppers. Ormskirk and Skelmersdale Police Stations have 500 to give away.

Skelmersdale neighbourhood sergeant, Andy Bramhall, said: "We have been running this scheme now for a number of years. We will be handing the jingle bells out in the town centre and we can even post them into the homes of residents.

"Schemes like this are important in tackling pickpockets.

"I remember when I worked in Chorley an old woman refused to leave the house after she had her purse stolen in the town centre. She imposed a 'life sentence' on herself by not leaving her home."

A spokesman for Skelmersdale Police said: "Christmas is coming and it is the time to buy presents for our loved ones. Pickpockets are aware of this and will think nothing of stealing purses from distracted shoppers.

"Their preferred target is the elderly and many are left feeling distraught by becoming the victim of crime.

"We have just received a new batch of jingle bells to attach to valuables to alert us if someone is trying to take them away.

"If you know an older person who would benefit from these please ask a neighbourhood officer when you see them out and about, or call into Skelmersdale or Ormskirk police stations where we have a small stock behind the counter."

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Slight annual increase in Jobseeker's Allowance and Universal Credit claimants in borough

THE number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) or Universal Credit in West Lancashire in the age group from 16 to 64 has increased by 25 (or 2%) from 1,270 in October 2015 to 1,295 in October 2016.

In the 18 to 24-year-old category meanwhile there was a decrease in the JSA or Universal Credit claimants from 360 in October 2015 to 350 in October 2016.

Clive Morris from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) said: "The 2% increase for all age groups claiming JSA or Universal Credit in West Lancashire goes against the Merseyside and Sefton statistics which both saw a decrease in their figures.

"There is a new way of recording Universal Credit this month which may account for the rise in West Lancashire. Previously we did not have a full representation of the number of people on Universal Credit. This new system may have caused a general uplift in the claimant figures. These statistics are now a more accurate representation of the amount of people out of work.

"Job Centre Plus has a robust relationship with employers. We work with small and large employers to understand their needs and are able to support and train candidates and advise them on formal qualifications.

"We work closely with the customers to find out what they need to get into the job market. The unemployed are also provided with information on how to acquire digital skills to allow them to compete in these areas.

"We also run sector-based work academies which lead to actual jobs at the end of it. There are also work experience programmes, particularly for the 18 to 24-year-old age group.

"Job centres also run job fairs."

Pupils provide some welcome festive cheer for needy youngsters

YOUNGSTERS at St Thomas the Martyr Primary School in Up Holland are doing their bit to spread a little festive cheer to children less fortunate than themselves this Christmas.

Pupils at the school in Highgate Road have been taking part in the Operation Christmas Child campaign, run by the charity Samaritan's Purse, by filling shoeboxes with gifts for needy children around the world.

They have been wrapping and packing up 'gifts' for boys or girls, including basic items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap, hairbrushes, pens and pencils, as well as toys and games.

The shoebox campaign, which distributes the boxes through local churches overseas, aims to teach children about generosity for others and how a small act of compassion can make a huge difference to a child's life.

Headteacher, Julie Butcher, said: "The children have loved putting these boxes together and we are so grateful for the generosity of all of the families who have made a contribution."

Some of the pupils with their shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child

Local legal eagles to sponsor radio station's toy appeal

Report by **Henry James**

SKELMERSDALE solicitors Scott Rees & Co. are one of two official sponsors of the Wish FM Toy Appeal 2016.

The appeal aims to provide some Christmas cheer for less fortunate children and families by providing them with gifts they otherwise may not have received.

During the run-up to Christmas it is very easy to get carried away buying presents for friends and relatives. Families in the UK spend on average around £800 on Christmas, including food drink, decorations and presents.

Some families however find Christmas an enormous struggle financially finding the funds to really give their children something to celebrate.

It is also a time to remember children in care and without a family to celebrate Christmas.

This appeal looks to make a real difference and bring some much-needed cheer in what could otherwise be a distressing and sad time of year.

Scott Rees & Co's marketing partner David Byrne

The appeal is asking that everybody willing to take part goes out and buys just one extra toy to leave at a local drop-off centre in the region. Drop-off centres include Scott Rees & Co's office at Centaur House, Gardiners Place, Skelmersdale.

While a single toy may not make much difference given the overall cost of Christmas for many families, it can make the world of difference for a child who would otherwise not be expecting anything.

Scott Rees & Co's marketing partner, David Byrne was very happy to secure the partnership and ensure the company's contribution to the event, not just as a source of presents from staff, but by being an official sponsor and drop-off centre.

He said: "The Wish FM Toy Appeal is a very poignant reminder that Christmas is not just about us individually. It also allows us to not only think about those who find this time difficult, but is a good way to make a tangible difference."

The appeal is now running with all drop-off centres accepting gifts for the cause until Monday, December 12.

If you'd like to drop off a gift at Scott Rees & Co you can do so at anytime during opening hours which are Monday to Friday from 9am to 7pm. Centaur House, Gardiners Place is just a few minutes drive from the Concourse shopping centre.

Man wanted for court order breach

POLICE have released details of a man they are seeking in connection with the breaching of a court order.

Twenty-two-year-old Liam Stocks (pictured) of Beavers Way, Digmoor is currently believed to be in the Skelmersdale area and officers are appealing for information leading to his whereabouts.

Det. Sgt. Graeme Simpson, of Lancashire Police, said: "Enquiries are continuing into locating Stocks. If you have seen or know his whereabouts I would urge you to contact police as soon as possible.

"Similarly, if Stocks sees this appeal, I would advise him to hand himself in."

Anyone with information can contact police on 101 or Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or online at Crimestoppers-uk.org.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE

INTERNATIONAL CHEF JOINS LOCAL BISTRO

THE Coach House bar and bistro on Liverpool Road in Skelmersdale has only been open for 18 months and is already making a name for itself for being the place to go locally for great food and drinks.

David Vella and his business partner, Graham Edden, are the owners of the contemporary bar, which has a classy feel. Their mission statement is to offer consistent high quality, locally sourced and freshly prepared food and drinks with a great environment.

They have joined forces with international chef, Robert Boldizar, who has worked in 5 star hotels and popular restaurants in Hungary and Germany and more recently at the Piri Piri Grill in Ormskirk and has 25 years experience in the restaurant industry. The venue is open from 12 noon daily, with lunches and evening meals served Tuesday to Sunday with daily specials. There is plenty to choose from on their main menu. Robert uses local suppliers to prepare his dishes, and all of their food is freshly cooked daily. The desserts are changed daily and Robert has an added skill in fruit carving, which has to be seen!

They use award winning H. Greaves and Son butchers in Up Holland for their meat and buy their fruit and vegetables from another West Lancashire firm - M.A. Forshaw Ltd.

From December 1 to December 30 their Festive Party Menu will be available with two courses at £16.95 and three courses at £19.95. The menu is available during normal opening hours, excluding Christmas Day. It offers a varied selection including: homemade chicken liver pate to start with, traditional Christmas turkey and traditional Christmas pudding to finish. There is also an excellent Christmas Day menu where people can have three courses for £45 per person and children 12 and under pay £22.50. The Coach House will have a deluxe buffet on New Year's Eve as well as quality live entertainment and champagne and canapés on arrival. Tickets are priced at just £20.

The venue offers its customers delicious cocktails in a friendly, plush environment too. Cocktails include the Classic Mojito, with Bacardi Superior Rum, fresh lime, gomme, mint leaves and soda. People can also try the God Father, which contains Jack Daniels, amaretto, bitters, cherry, gomme and orange twist.

They also have regular live entertainment for all ages with an open mic on Thursdays and quality local and regional artists on the weekend.

The Coach House has become a favourite with locals and has been used for birthday parties, hen parties, christenings, wedding parties and family gatherings. Three generations of the same family are also using the venue.

Customers have commented on the "nice decor"; "beautiful outside space"; "amazing food", "delicious cocktails" and "great value."

The Champion's Henry James visited the venue with his wife, Pam, to sample the main menu – On arriving we were impressed with the inside of the bar and bistro and liked the modern feel. The venue was well lit as well. We were taken to our seats, which were in the restaurant at the back of the location. I picked the soup of the day to start with, while Pam went for the Thai fish cakes. The soup was piping hot and was served in a bowl made completely out of bread! It had a good taste and there were plenty of chunky bits of ham. Pam was pleased with her Thai fish cakes and she liked the extra kick provided by the sweet chilli mayonnaise. For the main course, I went for the grilled salmon which came with vegetables and potatoes and was well presented. It definitely hit the spot. While Pam went for The Stack, which included a burger with cheese and bacon and chunky chips. She was very pleased with her choice. Pam was satisfied with her two courses. However I decided to treat myself and chose the Strawberry Pavlova for dessert. It is a beautifully-made creation and is packed with fresh strawberries and whipped cream. The staff were friendly, efficient and helped us with our choices and the food came in good time.

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Looking back... a photo of Laverys Staff circa 1925 with founder Issac Herbert Lavery (2nd left, standing)

Images exhibition offers chance to take a peep into area's past

NOSTALGIA lovers will be given a chance to take a peep into the past when an Images of Burscough and Surrounding Areas exhibition is staged on Saturday, December 3.

The event, organised by local history buffs, Michael Dawson, Lawrence Critchley and Debra Baldwin, will be held in the main hall of the Stanley Club in Liverpool Road North, Burscough from 10am to 4pm.

It will be officially opened by David Lavery, grandson of Isaac Herbert Lavery the founder of the local cake factory that once employed up to 2,000 people at its site in Red Cat Lane.

The exhibition will feature around 500 images of the West Lancashire area including Ormskirk, Scarisbrick, Lathom, Rufford and Newburgh, along with displays of many items of local memorabilia, including some from the former HMS Ringtail.

Adding to the local 'flavour' of the day there will be free samples of Burscough Lemon Slab Cake, a variation of the slab cake that was once made at Laverys, plus Ormskirk gingerbread and shortbread from an old recipe by Emma Vickers.

There will also be various displays by Richard Houghton from the Lathom & Burscough Military Heritage Society, the Ormskirk and District Family History Society and the Burscough Heritage Group.

The Bull & Dog Inn early 1900s

Raffle tickets will be on sale along with a variety of locally-themed items including calendars, Christmas cards, fridge magnets and mounted prints.

One of the organisers, Michael Dawson, said: "I have also produced 26 information sheets on various local subjects (including the recipes to the samples available on the day) that are free for people to take home.

"And during the day a large screen will be on the stage showing many old local cine films including one from Laverys in the 1950s.

"Meanwhile, I am always on the lookout for old photos of our local area and would ask anyone coming along to the exhibition who might have any of interest to please bring them on the day as I will have my laptop and scanner available to make copies."

For more information and to view a host of local images log on to www.images-of-burscough.co.uk.

Police issue Facebook alert

POLICE are urging residents to be on their guard after a 'suspicious person' was seen hanging around Hallbridge Gardens in Up Holland.

The person was described as being dressed in dark clothing and was seen to go up the drive and into the back garden of a property at around 5.30am on Thursday, November 24.

A spokesman for Skelmersdale Police posted on Facebook: "Be alert, look after your property and look after your neighbour's property.

"If you see anything suspicious please phone us and we will attend. By working together we can stop this sort of behaviour and look after each other."

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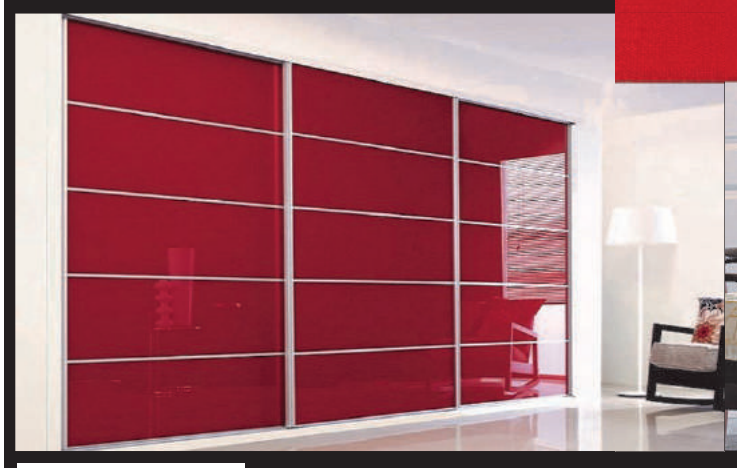

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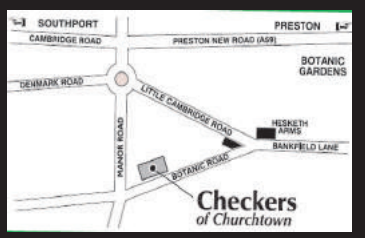

Opening Times

Mon-Sat 9am-6pm

Sun 10am-4pm

All in it together . . . pupils, parents and teachers at Delph Side Community Primary School join hands to show their support of the campaign to raise awareness of bullying

School campaign to raise awareness of bullying

A SKELMERSDALE primary school has run a week-long campaign to raise awareness of bullying.

Staff at Delph Side Community Primary School in Eskdale, Tanhouse organised a range of activities to educate pupils on the issue.

Deputy headteacher, Natalie Barber, said: "We have had an extremely exciting and engaging time completing many different activities for Anti-Bullying week to raise awareness in our school community.

"Each class has created an Origami heart as part of our Tree of Friendship. This represents the unity and friendship that we at Delph Side Primary School are so proud of.

"Also, it was important to us to get everybody involved, including the parents, to join us in raising awareness of the importance of working together as one.

"We did this by holding hands in a circle and performing I'll Stand By You by The Pretenders.

"Our Year 6 children got involved by forming the word STOP in the centre of the circle to show our stance against bullying."

Financial whiz Sara wins regional business award

A SKELMERSDALE-based businesswoman has scooped a top regional award.

Sara Boyd, managing director and financial director of Graylaw Freight, picked up the Finance Director of the Year prize (under 40 years of age) at The Finance Director Awards which celebrate the achievements of leading individuals and businesses within the Liverpool City Region, Cheshire, West Lancashire and North Wales regions.

Held at the Hilton Liverpool earlier this month, the awards were hosted by BBC Radio 5 Live's Hugh Ferris.

Having worked for the international and domestic road transport services company in Gillibrands Road for 19 years, Sara was nominated for the award for her contribution to the business during that time.

Report by **Henry James**

She joined the company in 1997 as a purchase ledger clerk working her way up before becoming managing director and finance director in 2007.

Speaking of the award, Sara said: "It was an absolute honour, a very proud moment and a great chance to reflect on my career to date and what I have achieved with the help of all my colleagues."

● Right: Sara Boyd with her award

News Desk Tel. 01704 392400

Church Christmas tree display

ST PAUL'S Church in Church Road, Skelmersdale is to host a Christmas tree display on Saturday, December 10 from 10am to 4pm and Sunday, December 11 from 12.30 to 4pm.

The event will feature local businesses, schools and groups which use the church, and there will be a variety of Christmas trees on display. There will also be a cake stall and a £2 stall.

The event was first held last year when 16 trees were displayed and organisers are hoping to show 25 this year. Entrance is £2 for adults and 50p for children.

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Some of the youngsters who have been involved in the swimming project

Schools project leads to 'significant' improvement in primary pupils' swimming skills

Report by **Henry James**

Future goal is to set up a town team to take part in competitive events

A SWIMMING service set up for the primary schools in the Skelmersdale and Up Holland area has led to a "significant" improvement in swimming skills in the town.

SHARES, the not-for-profit company which provides a range of services to primary schools in Skelmersdale and Up Holland, launched the project in 2014 after the National Census released data showing that only 45% of children were leaving schools being able to swim 25 metres and pass National Curriculum standards.

The national statistics, the quality of school swimming and the progress the children made were a concern for the SHARES headteachers.

Since then a "comprehensive swim" project was developed ensuring all aspects of swimming were involved.

In summer 2016, 85% of primary aged pupils in Skelmersdale and Up Holland who swam with SHARES swimming met the key stage expectations in swimming and passed the National Curriculum.

A spokeswoman for SHARES said: "Comparing this to national statistics highlights all SHARES schools are significantly above the national average and have shown a massive improvement since the project started.

"SHARES have created a swim programme that enables pupils to have access to 45-minute lessons and swim for a 30 or 36-week period over the academic year.

Commitment

"Over the lessons attended each child is initially assessed and monitored throughout with a final assessment being conducted every term. Children are then awarded with an ASA badge and certificate linking to the stage they have passed.

"The school staff working alongside the SHARES Swim instructors helps to maximise learning within the lessons. Furthermore, there is an unrelenting commitment from all schools to ensure pupils can reach the National Curriculum standards by the end of Key Stage 2.

"With TOP UP Swimming now an extra service being offered to schools in the summer term, this has allowed us to identify children who need extra support and meet the needs on an individual basis."

Recently SHARES have set up an Able, Gifted and Talented Club which runs after school, one child from each school is identified to attend after having excelled in the lessons and shown great potential.

The future goal is to set up a Town Swim Team to create an opportunity for children to improve their swimming skills further and represent their town in a competitive environment.

The spokeswoman added: "Overall, since 2014 swimming as a sport and a life skill has massively improved within the Skelmersdale and Up Holland area. The goal over the next coming years is to have the majority of children leaving primary school being able to swim 25 metres confidently and have the safe, self-rescue knowledge to help them in real life situations."

For more information contact Emma Walmsley 01695 729897 or emma.walmsley@shareslancashire.co.uk.

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Hospital visiting times change so patients can have lunch in peace!

CHANGE is on the menu for visitors to Southport and Ormskirk hospitals.

NHS Trust bosses have decided to alter visiting times at the two sites in order to ensure patients can enjoy their lunch without distractions!

Attendance times to see patients will now run from 1 to 8.30pm, an hour later than previously, although this does not include maternity and neonatal wards which have their own visiting times.

Visitors who come in to assist patients with meals are still welcome from midday, they are just asked to identify themselves to a member of staff on arrival.

Carol Fowler, acting deputy director of nursing, said: "We extended our visiting times last year as we recognised the importance of visitors in aiding patients' recovery.

Time for lunch - hospital visiting times now one hour later

"Nutritious meals also play a large part in recovery and we've noticed some patients becoming distracted at lunchtime and their food was cold by the time they came to eat it, or they weren't eating at all. We hope by adjusting the visiting start time slightly, our patients will see the benefit."

If friends and family find these visiting times are not convenient, they can speak to the nurse in charge of the ward who will be able to help.

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage with members of the pupil parliament and school council during her visit to Crow Orchard Primary School in Skelmersdale

Trophy incentive for schools to support mayor's charities

MAYOR of West Lancashire, Councillor Liz Savage, has organised three trophies for schools to encourage them to get involved in raising money for the worthy causes she is supporting during her year of office - the neonatal unit at Ormskirk Hospital; the Artz Centre, Birch Green; The Civic in Ormskirk and the Birchwood Centre, Skelmersdale.

The mayor and her consort, Councillor Noel Delaney visited Crow Orchard Primary School in Skelmersdale to talk to pupils about the Mayoral Trophies.

During her time at the school she called in on different classes and answered question on the trophies, and the role of the mayor.

She also had lunch with the reception class at the school and a tea party with the nursery children.

Teaching assistant, Lesley Jones, said: "It was good for the children to find out what they were raising money for, how it gets spent and why there is a necessity for it."

One of the trophies will be presented to the school which raises the most money. Another will be for the school which raises the most money per pupil, and another will be for the school which has the most innovative fundraising idea.

So far six schools are involved. To enter schools should organise an event to raise money for the Mayor's Charity.

Further details may be obtained from Member Services, West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF, or email jill.ryan@westlancs.gov.uk or telephone 01695 585017.

Winners will be presented with their trophies at the end of her mayoral year in May 2017.

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Campaign to tackle loneliness in county

Report by **Henry James**

AGE UK Lancashire is on a mission to end loneliness for older people in the county - and is calling on the public to lend a hand.

The charity is supporting the 'No one should have no one at Christmas' campaign to raise awareness of the negative effect loneliness can have on people.

In Lancashire it estimated that more than 30,600 older people experience loneliness on a daily basis, while in the UK as a whole 1.2m older people are believed to be always lonely. Some older people say they have not spoken to a loved one in more than a month.

Loneliness and isolation are not a normal part of growing older and can have a drastic effect on a person's physical and mental wellbeing. In many cases this can result in serious consequences. Research carried out suggests that it can be as harmful to a person's health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day!

Another study that looked at people with high levels of loneliness found that they were twice as likely to develop Alzheimer's disease compared to those people who have a low level of loneliness.

David Ward from Age UK Lancashire said: "We are asking people for support as we know there are many older people who we are unable to help. Now, more than ever before, we rely on donations and fundraising to enable us to continue to support people, but also reach out to those who need us the most.

"The majority of people will spend Christmas with family and friends but many people will have no one to share this special time of year with.

"This year we are collating information to let people know what is going on around the festive period, particularly on Christmas Day, so if anyone is facing Christmas alone and would like to go somewhere, please ring 0300 303 1234 and we can hopefully give them information about any local gathering."

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The Age UK campaign

Age UK Lancashire provides many vital services that are unfunded. If you would like to donate to support their work you can text AUKL02 £3 to 70070 or make a larger donation online at www.ageuklancs.org.uk

Other ways to support the charity include donating unwanted items to their charity shops or signing up to become a volunteer.

Information about the services and ways in which you can support can be found at www.ageuklancs.org.uk or calling 0300 303 1234.

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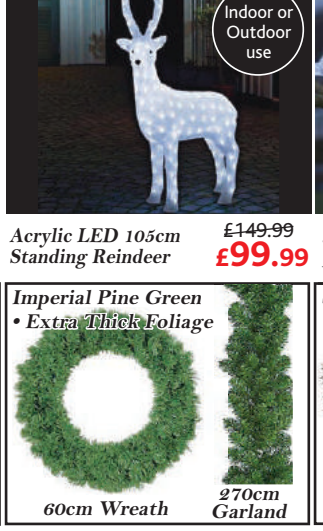

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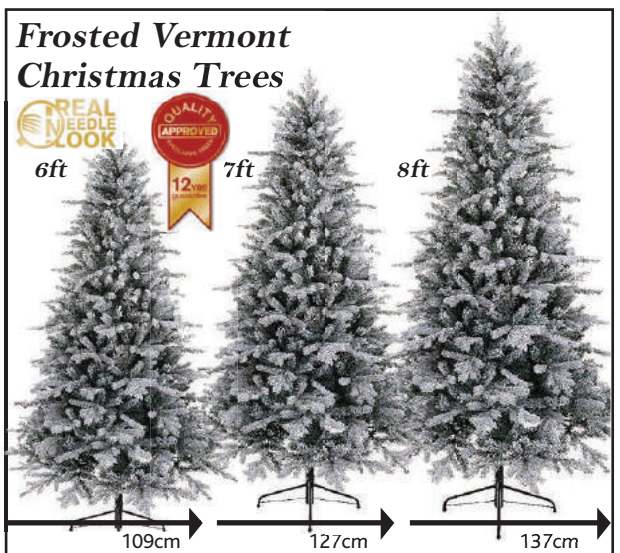

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Members of Cherish enjoying the annual Christmas Day meal

Couple to host fifth free festive get-together for those who would be on their own on Christmas Day

Report by **Danielle Thompson**

A KIND couple are set to hold their fifth annual free Christmas Day meal for people who would otherwise be on their own on the day.

David and Pam Nickson are hosting the meal, plus bingo and entertainment, from 1 to 5pm at the Hesketh Bank Christian Centre in Moss Lane.

And for those struggling with transport, the big-hearted pair will even pick them up and drop them off as well!

Following their first event, David and Pam and their new-found festive friends formed a friendship group, Cherish, and meet up every few months for a meal and a catch-up.

Places for the meal must be confirmed by Saturday, December 10 and would-be guests are asked to pay a £5 deposit to secure their place, although this will be refunded on Boxing Day.

David Nickson said: "Christmas is almost upon us again and we will be holding our annual Christmas Day meal for anyone, middle-aged and upwards, single or a couple, who may be on their own.

"We would love you to come and join us on Christmas Day as we don't want anybody to be on their own. If you give us a call, we will come and visit you to introduce ourselves and take details of dietary needs."

To reserve a place at the meal for yourself or someone else, or for more information contact David on 07825768184 or 07703563132 or email email nickson70@gmail.com.

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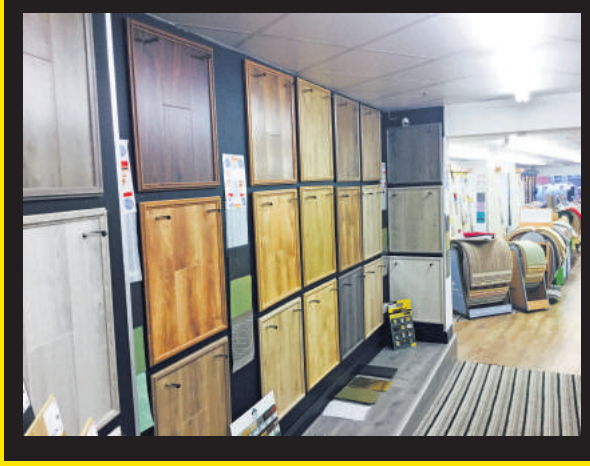

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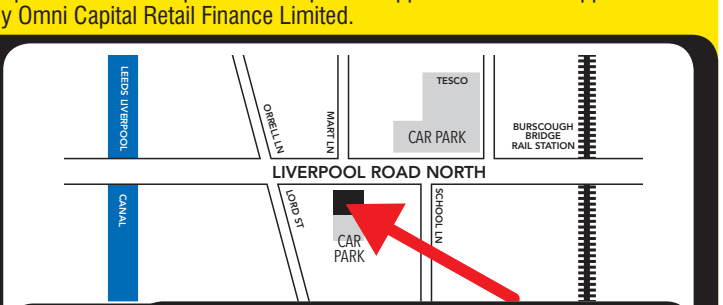

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Is this the council's lesson in how to waste our money?

AS a lifelong Aughton resident I have been following local events closely. Have I got this right?

The council went through a lengthy and costly process of identifying land for development and in the process, removed their designated sites from the Green Belt in the Local Plan to provide much-needed housing in the area.

The council have now decided to waste our money on a costly legal challenge to attempt to delay one of their own sites being built on, namely, the Parrs Lane site in Aughton, which I know well.

In my and, quite laughably, the council's own opinion, this is an ideally positioned site to extend the town sustainably.

It is my understanding that, behind closed doors, the council have allocated an initial sum of £150,000 of our money for this flawed legal exercise.

Aughton is presently strangulated for extra homes, particularly affordable, slightly cheaper homes to allow our children to get on the property ladder without needing to move away - a commodity this site is pledged to bring, along with funding for a much-needed new and extended bus route for the area to reinstate the one we tragically lost recently.

Now I read that our strapped-for-cash council has decided to increase the Council Tax bill by £30 to empty our green bins.

I can only assume this is a thinly-veiled attempt to make us residents fund the council's stupid idea to, effectively fight themselves in delaying one of their own, inevitable sites - a site that will actually bring much-needed resources and revenue into the area and bolster the 'dying-on-its-feet' town centre of Ormskirk.

Who elected these clowns?

Angry resident of Aughton,
Name and address supplied

Surely's it's Network Rail's responsibility to provide parking for train travellers

SOME people's ignorance really makes me chuckle.

In response to the letter by P.O. (by email, November 16) regarding the parking area at the rear of Ormskirk railway station car park, if you actually read the signs they state quite clearly that the car park is for users of Station Approach Park.

This is the lovely woodland/wildlife area which has been improved and made accessible for visitors.

This would be great if less mobile people were able to park there to enjoy this fabulous green space.

Instead, this area is heavily used by park-and-riders.

Why would West Lancs Borough Council spend money to allow people to park for free to travel out of Ormskirk to spend their money in Liverpool, Preston or beyond?

Surely it's Network Rail's responsibility to provide parking for their users?

E. Z. Rider, Ormskirk

PICTURE of the week

'It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas' - there was festive fun in a shower of 'snow' as the Ormskirk Christmas Lights were switched on. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Scrap this 'white elephant' project

THE Chancellor should abandon plans for the HS2 railway project.

As well as all the homes that will be destroyed by this huge white elephant just think what else the country could do with the £55billion.

The NHS needs an infusion of cash to make it fit for purpose.

Many commuters already struggle to pay their rail fares and I shudder to think how much tickets will cost to travel on this folly.

It is actually part of an EU project - the Trans-European Networks (TENs) - designed to integrate all of the European Union's transport and communications network.

We have asserted ourselves with Brexit and we must now assert ourselves with a 'no' to HS2.

Louise Bours, North West UKIP MEP

I'd make hospital decisions for free!

WITH regards to the hospital trust, after some considerable thought, having been a chair person of several companies and a director of several other businesses over my long career (of which none have gone into administration) being now retired and still very active, I would be more than pleased to sit behind a table and assist making decisions for the benefit of our local hospital for no pay at all.

In other words, to volunteer. And I'm sure there are more people than myself with the same attitude.

You could even afford two at the same price!

Harry Forster, by email

Drop us a line

■ IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors and are NOT necessarily endorsed or advocated in any way by Champion Newspapers.

Time to end this deadly confusion over funding of breast cancer drugs

I READ with great concern the news that thousands of women are missing out on cheap drugs that could prevent their breast cancer from spreading - when it becomes incurable - because it is unclear which health body should pay for them.

A breast cancer diagnosis can be devastating for patients and their families. If there are drugs out there that can prevent women dying from this dreadful disease, they must be made routinely available.

These drugs -called bisphosphonates - cost on average just 43p per day, and if given to all women who could benefit, one in ten breast cancer deaths could be prevented.

It simply doesn't make sense that lives are being lost over this confusion over funding. That's why I'm backing Breast Cancer Now's #43paday campaign, calling on my MP to urge the Health Secretary to clarify who is responsible for funding these drugs and ensure clear guidance is issued, as soon as possible.

I would encourage others to join me and add their support by visiting: www.breastcancernow.org/43paday.

Gillian Jones, by email

Tree looks like a dunce's hat!

I WOULD like to express my disappointment at the sad-looking Christmas tree inside the Concourse.

This must be the fourth year that they have put this tree up. It just looks like a pre-set cardboard cut-out, it could even be mistaken for an old fashioned dunce's hat, it's that fake.

I read somewhere that the Concourse were going to splash out on better trees and grotto. Is Skelmersdale once again the forgotten or down-the-list town where the people do not count?

David Jones, by email

Fed up with early charity postings

I AM fed up with charity bags getting posted through my letter box at 6.30am.

As I write this I got one this morning, the sound of the letterbox woke me up. These people must be out very early posting them.

I know they all want to get donations and what they can, but should they be waking people up at that hour of a morning posting them?

Would love to know if any of your readers feel the same.

John Bennett, by email

Road rage driver ran over man who had called police after verbal abuse

A 54-YEAR-old West Lancs man has appeared in court for an act of road rage which saw him run over another motorist in his car.

By our **Court Reporter**

Andrew Page, prosecuting at Sefton Magistrates Court on November 23, told how a man and his wife were driving along Duningsbridge Road, Bootle towards Maghull, on January 9, when a Ford Focus driven by Peter Anderson, of Noel Gate, Aughton, pulled up in front of him.

The man flashed his lights and beeped his horn to let Anderson know he was there, Mr Page said, and then after drawing level with him said: "Use your eyes."

Mr Page said that at Northway, Maghull, Anderson again pulled up in front of him and braked sharply.

The man asked his wife to phone police as Anderson then got out of his car, went to the man's window, and said "What did you say sh**thouse?" before getting back into his car.

"The complainant got out of his car and stood in front of Mr Anderson's car to stop him driving off while they waited for police to arrive," Mr Page said.

Captured

"At that point he drove his car directly into the complainant. The complainant tried to dive out of the way but was hit and rolled over the bonnet on the righthand side and landed on the road.

"The entire incident was captured on CCTV on the dashboard of the complainant's vehicle.

"It showed that the complainant was not aggressive. He suffered fractured ribs which caused him constant pain and also a hernia. He did not require surgery."

Represented by solicitor Phil Lieb, Mr Anderson, who had no previous convictions, pleaded guilty to dangerous driving.

Mr Page told the magistrates that the matter was considered too serious for the magistrates' court to deal with and invited them to send it to the crown court.

Following advice by the legal advisor the magistrates agreed and Mr Anderson was bailed to appear at Liverpool Crown Court on December 21 for sentencing.

Invitation to step to it for charity

DANCE lovers are being invited to step on to the floor to help a cancer charity.

The branch of North West Cancer Research is staging a fundraising dance at the British Legion in Lord Street, Burscough on Sunday, December 11 in aid of the charity and Clatterbridge Hospital.

The Wirral-based hospital is one of the largest cancer centres in the UK.

The event, starting at 8pm will feature modern and easy sequence dances and all are welcome.

Admission is £6 per person, which includes tea and cakes. For more information call 01704 892346.

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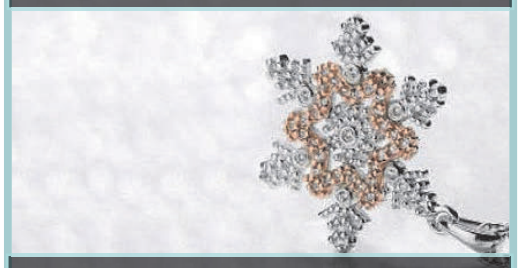

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Budding actors Jessica, James and Tillie with their exam results

Top marks for talented trio

A TRIO of talented youngsters from the Lancashire Youth Performing Arts (LYPA) group based at Edge Hill University's Rose Threatre are celebrating after passing nationally-recognised examinations with flying colours.

Jessica Williams, 14, James Powell, 13 and 12-year-old Tillie Virgo, all scored 100% success in their London Academy of Music & Dramatic Art (LAMDA) level 1 award in performance acting examinations.

Burscough Priory pupil Jessica and Tillie, who attends Ormskirk School, both attained merits, while James achieved a distinction.

Sharon Powell, principal of LYPA, said: "LAMDA qualifications are a fantastic opportunity to gain nationally-recognised accreditation whilst developing skills, knowledge and understanding at LYPA.

"We are so very proud of what has been achieved as to gain top marks in some areas is a massive achievement."

Survey seeks views of cervical test patients

PATIENTS in West Lancashire are being urged to share their experiences of undergoing cervical testing.

Healthwatch Lancashire has launched a survey to gather the views and experiences from people in the borough about their cervical screenings, also known as smear tests, and any barriers they faced which affected their decisions on whether to undertake the screenings.

The results of the anonymous survey will be shared with NHS England to provide insight on how the NHS Cervical Screening Programme can reach more people across Lancashire.

According to NHS England, since the screening programme was introduced in the 1980s, the number of cervical cancer cases has decreased by around 7% each year.

NHS England state that around 3,000 women will be diagnosed with cervical cancer every year in the UK. It is the most common cancer in women aged 35 and under.

Women aged 25 to 49 are invited to screenings every three years, women aged 50 to 64 are invited every five years and women over 65 are only invited if they haven't been screened since the age of 50 or if they have recently had abnormal tests.

Men can also share their experiences of female friends, family members and relatives undertaking cervical cancer screenings by taking the survey.

To undertake the survey, visit surveymonkey.co.uk/r/HealthwatchSurveyCCS.

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Judge baffled by failure to charge father and son with plotting to burgle churches

By our **Court Reporter**

A JUDGE has demanded to know why a father and son, who broke into 13 churches in the Southport and West Lancs area, have not been charged with plotting to burgle.

Gregory Hawkshaw and his 23-year-old son Danny Hawkshaw were due to be sentenced after admitting two burglaries with 11 more taken into consideration.

The sentencing had to be adjourned however as Hawkshaw, junior, of Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale, who was on bail, failed to attend Liverpool Crown Court and a warrant was consequently issued for his arrest.

Guilty plea

His 45-year-old dad, of no fixed address, appeared by video link from prison, and his lawyer Nick Archer asked for sentence on him to be deferred as "he believes he can recover the majority of substantive items that were taken."

But Judge Robert Warnock told him, "There is no prospect whatsoever of a deferred sentence in this case."

The two men pleaded guilty to breaking into Ainsdale Methodist Church on Liverpool Road overnight on September 30 this year and stealing two laptops and burgling St John's Anglican Church, also in Liverpool Road, on October 10, when they took a £300 laptop.

The other offences took place in Scarisbrick, Halsall, Southport and Ainsdale and hundreds of pounds worth of cash, laptops, projectors and televisions were taken.

Judge Warnock demanded an explanation from the Crown Prosecution Service as to why the pair were only charged with two burglaries and the rest taken into consideration instead of facing a conspiracy to burgle charge. "It doesn't make any sense to me," he said.

The case was adjourned until December 9.

Online 'winter weather watch' guide to council services

MEMBERS of the public can stay informed about West Lancs Council services if they are affected by winter weather by logging on to the authority's website at www.westlancs.gov.uk/winter or by following it on Twitter at @WestlancsBC.

By accessing these sites, residents and businesses in the borough can get up-to-the-minute information about any changes to council services as a result of adverse weather.

Signing up to Twitter is free and can be done at www.twitter.com. The 'blue light' Emergency Services also use Twitter to give out urgent information.

By going online at www.westlancs.gov.uk/winter or following the council on Twitter you will be able to get news of any changes to services, including refuse and recycling collections, at the earliest instance.

The council is also urging residents to be prepared for floods and to check if they need to take steps to protect their homes.

The storms last winter had devastating effects, causing the worst flooding ever recorded in West Lancs. Almost 300 properties were flooded and many people had to leave their homes because of the damage.

Information to help residents decide if they should take steps to protect their property is also provided on the council website along with what to do if a flood occurs. This can be found at www.westlancs.gov.uk/flooding.

Leader of West Lancs Council, Councillor Ian Moran, said: " By keeping an eye on our website and following us on Twitter people will receive important updates about affected borough council services, as soon as they happen. I would encourage people to go online to find out more about winter services.

"Homes and communities can be devastated by flooding and we urge people to go to the website, look at the flood awareness pages and consider what action they should take. Visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/flooding."

Lancashire County Council provides information on services such as highways, gritting and school closures at www.lancashire.gov.uk/winter.

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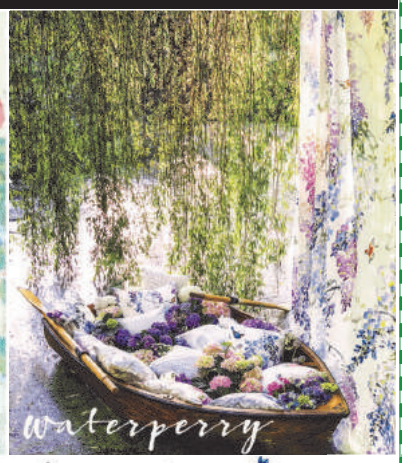

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West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper with some of the staff at Ormskirk's Beacon Primary Care centre who have been recognised for long service.

Recognition for long-serving health service employees

LONG-serving employees at Beacon Primary Care Clinical Network and North Meols Medical Centre have been recognised.

The staff members, who have all served at least 25 years in the NHS, each received a certificate to recognise their achievement from West Lancs MP Rosie Cooper, along with a cash bonus of £250.

Practice nurses Marjorie Mason and Janey Wareing have clocked up an astonishing 57 and 52 years respectively with the heath service, while the other recipients were as follows: Joanne Biswas (31 years, practice nurse); Debbie Cockle (27 years, practice nurse); Anne Doyle (31 years, practice nurse); Andrea Gilroy (26 years, nurse clinician); Sue Hill (34 years, practice nurse); Lynne Rice (36 years, practice nurse); Anne Doyle (32 years, practice nurse); and Elsie Roberts (25 years-plus).

Beacon Primary Care has surgeries at Sandy Lane Health Centre, Skelmersdale; Railway Road, Ormskirk; and Hillside Health Centre in Skelmersdale.

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Unseasonal weather makes a mockery of the seasons!

THE last full week in November was wet, windy and cold - bitterly cold with the wind-chill factor - and with the odd flurry of hailstones thrown in for good measure. So is anyone still going to try to tell me that this is autumn?

Yes, yes I know my diary is, but then that daft article would have it autumn 'till the back half of December - you know, that well-known season of robins, snow-coated cottages and that bearded wonder, Father Christmas!

I know, too, that I have gone on about the ridiculous division of the four seasons, but really, hands up anyone who doesn't think that summer should begin rather earlier than the last week in June?

I admit that over the years I have had November cruises on my Broads boat, *Manxman* when we have had beautiful cloudless (if chilly) days. But equally we have contended with gale-force winds, driving rain, fog – and on one occasion we awoke to find the decks covered in deep and crisp and even snow. Autumn?

If anyone were to ask you what season I was describing in my first paragraph, I'd be surprised at any answer but winter - though I suppose summer could be the slightly amusing alternative!

I say again, what on earth is the point of divvying up our seasons in three-month chunks if the weather normally expected on the ground simply doesn't comply?

Enough of my hobby horse though.

I'm afraid I am going to incur the wrath not only of my local town council, but also of quite a few of my fellow inhabitants of Maghull.

For the second year, the council staged an open-air cinema event on a local park to coincide with Halloween, complete with hot food stalls, and even an ice-cream vendor, with the stated aim not only of providing a jolly good family evening out, but hopefully to attract some of those younger members of society who think mischief means nuisance.

Last year it worked and worked well. This time round however there was something of a hooligan element too, with witless young adults letting off and throwing fireworks on and around the field. Not unnaturally, some folk, particularly parents with young children who were frightened by this lunatic behaviour, complained to and about the council.

As I write this though, town councillors are still debating what can be done to prevent an encore next year.

It is right and proper that due notice should be taken of residents' quite reasonable complaints, but I do fear there is a danger of throwing the baby out with the bathwater if they are not very careful.

All kinds of ideas have been put forward, including high fencing all round the park, removing hedgerows which can be used as cover for wrongdoing, increased lighting, increased security and, of course, almost inevitably these days, CCTV.

Some of these plans (and there are far more than outlined here) have considerable merit, so long as they do not themselves get out of hand. But it must be remembered that in any case there are at least nine (I think, it could be more) possible ways into this park, and unless the high fence idea was adopted, it is surrounded on two sides by a most attractive old stone wall over which even I could easily climb.

I am aware that anti-social behaviour is generally on the increase in this country, but the answer must not lie in turning the place into a kind of Stalag. This event has gone off without a hitch once; other social gatherings on the same field have similarly gone without a hitch in the past and our town council is trying hard to introduce more family-orientated events there for the benefit of all.

So please, keep a sense of proportion. Don't let the lunatic actions of a few, on one occasion, spoil the enjoyment for everybody else – or spoil a playing field which is presently a delight.

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Reverend Martin Abrams

Hospital staff support for families who have suffered loss of a child

SUPPORT is being offered this Christmas to families who have suffered the tragic loss of a child.

Staff at both Ormskirk Hospital and Southport Hospital will be offering to help those who have lost loved ones and Trees of Remembrance will also be available in the prayer and quiet rooms at both hospitals during December.

Visitors will be welcome to write the name or names of loved ones on a decoration and hang it from the tree.

A special service of remembrance for babies and children will also be held at Ormskirk Hospital on Wednesday, December 7, led by the trust chaplain, Reverend Martin Abrams (above).

The event will start with refreshments in the main hospital entrance at 6.30pm before moving to one of the hospital gardens for the service.

Rev. Abrams said: "The run up to Christmas can be a very exciting and special time, but it can also heighten a sense of loss, grief and isolation.

"This was a much-appreciated and successful event last year.

"We hope the short, informal service will be supportive to anyone who has suffered a child or baby loss - not just recently but at any time in the past.

"The Salvation Army band will join us and we will be writing the names of loved ones on baubles to hang from our Christmas tree."

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Corporal Ryan Lord (far left, back row) with fellow members of the Merseyside Wing rugby squad

Corporal Ryan earns his stripes with county rugby squad

A SPORTY air cadet from Skelmersdale has been making his mark on the rugby field after being chosen to represent the Merseyside Regional Wing.

Corporal Ryan Lord of the 1439 (Sklelmersdale) Squadron Air training Corps, a former pupil of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic Engineering College, was a member of the squad which successfully made it through to the Wales and West Region 7-a-side competition finals held at RAF Cosford at the weekend where they finished in second place.

Commanding officer Jo Henderson from 1439 Skelmersdale ATC was delighted with Corporal Lord's achievements.

He said: "Sport is a key part of service life and adds hugely to the commitment, fitness and body strength. And rugby also helps build confidence, teamwork and friendships.

"We are very proud of Corporal Lord and he is an inspiration to all the new cadets who have recently joined our squadron."

Matalan founder contesting £84 unpaid tax claim

JOHN Hargreaves, founder of the Matalan fashion chain formerly based in Skelmersdale, is facing allegations that he failed to pay £84m in tax by claiming that he was living in Monaco.

At an intital tax tribunal hearing on Wednesday, November 23, HM Revenue & Customs claimed that the 72-year-old spent so much time in this country that funds he generated from Matalan should be taxed in the UK.

The allegations cover a period starting from May 2001 when the businessman and his partner made £200m by selling shares in the company.

Report by **Henry James**

Mr Hargreaves says that when the deal was finalised he was living in a hotel suite in Monaco, however HMRC have stated that he was "ordinarily resident" in Britain.

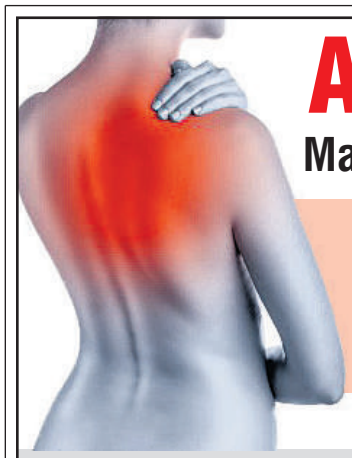
In the 2000-01 tax year, the Hargreaves family home was still at Barton, near Preston and he travelled back to the UK more than 40 times in his role as executive chairman of Matalan with the majority of his trips to the company HQ in Preston.

Mr Hargreaves claimed he moved away from the UK for a "settled purpose to live abroad permanently", and has lived in a hotel suite in Monaco, a yacht in the harbour and a rented apartment.

HMRC first presented the £84m tax bill to Mr Hargreaves in 2007 and he has been contesting it since then.

Matalan moved from its Skelmersdale site in 2015 to nearby Knowsley having been based in West Lancashire since 1997.

Mr Hargreaves started the company in 1985 after he decided to set up a US-style out-of-town retail chain in the UK.



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Golf club's £2.5m rebuild completed

Report by **Henry James**

A MAJOR investment programme at Hurlston Hall Golf Club in Scarisbrick is now complete.

More than £2.5m has been invested by owners of the club in a rebuild programme which created 19 new jobs, including a new chef and restaurant manager.

Club officials believe the programme, which has taken more than 16 months to complete, has resulted in improved facilities for members and guests.

The investment has included a double-storey extension to the main building, more than doubling the capacity of the conference and wedding facilities.

The room can now seat 300 people in a new event space surrounded by wrap-around balconies with frameless screens. The cost of the glass alone was in excess of £180,000.

Downstairs, money has also been invested in improving facilities for players with new changing rooms and members' bar, plus a new food destination.

Managing director, Aiofe O'Brien said the investment is part of the strategy developed for the club since the family acquired it in 2007.

"We have made a number of incremental improvements since we took over the club to keep it up to modern standards and to meet the expectation of our members and the public."

And in line with the club's policy to source locally wherever possible, the suppliers for tiling, stonework, audio visual, new windows, steel and glass work and cladding were all North West-based, while the building work was undertaken by Burscough company, E. L. Woods Ltd.

The new-look Hurlston Hall Golf Club

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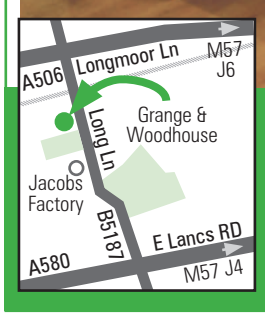

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West Lancashire College finance director Andrew Ross (right) and catering manager Christine Baker (centre) and guests at the opening of the refurbished coffee shop.

Refurbished coffee shop brings a taste of Italy to college

WEST Lancashire College have re-launched their High Street-style coffee shop, Café West in partnership with Italian espresso brand, Kimbo Coffee.

To celebrate the new association Café West was officially re-opened with dignitaries from Kimbo Coffee cutting the ribbon.

The coffee shop has been renovated and refurbished and now serves a range of bean-to-cup coffee, healthy homemade sandwiches, pastries and cakes, drinks and healthy snacks.

Kimbo is one of the top three Italian coffee roasters and was sought out by the college catering manager, Christine Baker for its "reputation, focus on quality and attention to detail".

She said: "We are delighted with our newly-refurbished coffee shop and partnership with Kimbo. We can now offer a welcoming, high-quality experience to our customers."

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Charity seeks new helpers in bid to expand services

by **Danielle Thompson**

A WEST Lancashire charity which was formed to make sports more accessible for adults with additional needs, is looking to recruit more staff to expand its services.

Burscough-based Sporting Challenge, which organises evening activities each month across the borough during the evenings and at weekends for around 40 adults, has been running for eight years.

Edward McCarthy, Sporting Challenge activities co-ordinator, said: "Sporting Challenge organise evening and weekend activities which are a great way for the users to have fun, make friends and lead an active lifestyle whilst providing valuable respite for their parents or carers.

Staff and members of Sporting Challenge

Support

"It can be difficult to access sport and exercise activities with barriers including parents or carers being unable to physically take them and stay with them at classes, or they can also experience physical difficulties with participating in mainstream sport and exercise classes.

"Sporting Challenge can really help as it provides specialist support workers who can collect participants from where they live and provide much-needed support while they are having fun, before dropping them off back home again.

"We provide sessions of ten-pin bowling, aerobics, swimming, Wii nights and much more. We work closely with local organisations Divine Days Creative Arts, Domino Partnerships and the charity Linkability to provide our ever-popular sessions.

"We are currently recruiting more staff for these activities, please get in touch for more information."

For more information on working for the organisation, or if you would like to join, visit sporting-challenge.org.uk, call 07971 299606 or email Edward@divinedays.co.uk

News Desk Tel. 01704 392400

Four-figure donation will help provide four-legged friends!

Care trust's helping hand for assistance dogs charity

STAFF from the Adult Community Network at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust have donated £1,714.56 to charity Dogs for Good.

The money, generated from scrap metal harvested from disused equipment such as beds, walking frames, hoists and nebulisers, was presented to the charity which trains assistance dogs to support adults and children with a range of disabilities and children with autism and also trains activity and therapy dogs to work with specialist handlers in communities and schools.

This is the fourth donation made to the charity as part of an innovative use of old equipment that a service formerly with the trust, the Community Equipment Resource Service (CERS), would recycle from equipment loaned to patients.

Jo Blofeld, patient and public involvement lead at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "So far, our donations have supported the purchase of four puppies which will grow up to be life-transforming dogs. It's a shame that CERS is now no longer provided by Lancashire Care, but we are now considering other innovative ways of generating donations to support Dogs for Good.

"When fully trained, the dogs provide an invaluable source of assistance and companionship for families and we are so pleased to be able to help this wonderful charity.

"In the past, families had a choice of disposing equipment themselves, to the local skip or charity shop, but not all families could do this. Because of this, our CERS team decided to recycle equipment and sell for scrap metal unusable items. Money raised would then be given to Dogs for Good."

Alix Davies, regional fundraiser at Dogs for Good, said: "Lancashire Care has been so supportive of Dogs for Good over the past two years, donating just under £5,000 for our puppy scheme. As we receive no government funding, we couldn't be more grateful to the team for getting behind us and the work we do exploring the good that can happen when we bring people and dogs together."

Alix Davies receives the cheque from Jo Blofeld and Amanda Thornton, clinical director for Adult Community Services at Lancashire Care

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MP urges borough drivers to take up safety pledge

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper lent her support to Road Safety Week by urging constituents to stay slow, sober, secure, silent, sharp-eyed and sustainable when driving.

Those six elements of safer driving are part of the 'pledge' road safety charity Brake is asking motorists to commit to in order to reduce accidents and make roads less dangerous.

As part of Road Safety Week (November 21-27) Brake and the Optical Confederation worked together to remind drivers of the importance of having regular sight tests to remain 'sharp-eyed' on the roads as poor vision can impair driving performance and leads to an estimated 2,900 accidents a year.

Rosie Cooper said: "It seems obvious, yet most people simply do not think about how dangerous driving with poor vision can be. Road Safety Week reminds drivers of their responsibilities to protect themselves, pedestrians and other road users from harm.

"I hope that all drivers in West Lancashire will sign up to the Brake pledge, and make sure they have a regular sight test."

Rosie Cooper is backing Brake's call for motorists to commit to its road safety pledge

County council names new children's services chief

AMANDA Hatton has been appointed as Lancashire County Council's new director of children's services.

A qualified social worker with a track record of delivering improved outcomes in adult and children's services at local, national and international level, Ms Hatton has also provided strategic advice and direction at national level to ministers and national bodies such as the Social Work Taskforce and the national Children's Improvement Board.

She said: "I'm very pleased to have been appointed director of children's services for Lancashire. Whilst there is still work to be done, children's services in Lancashire are certainly moving in the right direction and I am looking forward to playing my part in the council's improvement journey."

The role has been carried out on an interim basis since February 2016 by Linda Clegg, director of children's services at Blackburn with Darwen, who shares her time equally between the two councils. That arrangement will continue until Amanda Hatton takes up her new position in the spring.

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Police commissioner backs county's bid for ' White Ribbon' accreditation

Report by **Henry James**

LANCASHIRE'S bid to become the country's first 'White Ribbon County', aiming to end violence against women and girls, is being supported by police and crime commissioner, Clive Grunshaw.

For the first time, all councils across the county will be accredited alongside the commissioner's office, Lancashire Police and health bodies.

As part of International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, councils will sign up to the White Ribbon campaign which encourages all men to take a pledge not to "condone, commit or remain silent" about domestic abuse.

Each local authority will have a clear action plan for tackling and responding to domestic abuse as part of the accreditation.

Clive Grunshaw said: "Tackling domestic abuse is a key priority under my new Police and Crime Plan and I am delighted that Lancashire will be the first White Ribbon County. This represents a clear commitment from all local authorities to take a stand against this type of violence."

The commissioner, who part-funded the bid and recently took the lead role in commissioning services for domestic abuse victims and survivors, added: "It's not only the victims that suffer, the fact that 90% of domestic abuse is witnessed by children is shocking and it has to stop.

'Hidden crime'

"This campaign is about raising awareness and getting men to step up and speak out against domestic abuse and I am proud to support this."

Lancashire Constabulary's assistant chief constable, Tim Jacques added: "Domestic abuse is perceived as a hidden crime, yet it is prevalent across the county. Lancashire Constabulary deals with around 30,000 domestic abuse incidents and 10,000 domestic abuse crimes every year.

"Sadly, across the UK, there are two women every week who are killed by their partner.

"Domestic abuse can devastate families, relationships and children's futures. I would like to reassure victims that we will continue to support and protect them. If, by taking part in this campaign, we can encourage more victims to come forward then that can only be a good thing."

County Councillor Tony Martin, Lancashire County Council's cabinet member for adult and community services, said: "Violence comes in all forms and we will not tolerate it here in Lancashire. We're working with other organisations to stop all types of violence, and the White Ribbon campaign is part of this. It focuses specifically on violence against women committed by men.

"We know that most men find this completely unacceptable and we want them to wear the White Ribbon for 16 days to show their support for this campaign. By supporting the campaign, men will show they will not commit violence against women, but also that they will not stand by and remain silent if they are aware of anyone else who is being violent."

Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner Clive Grunshaw

Voters can have their say on next stage of polling review

VOTERS living in Burscough can share their views on polling place proposals in the next stage of a local review.

West Lancs Council is carrying out a review of the arrangements for voting for the BEC polling district, within Burscough East ward and WRD polling district of Wrightington ward of the borough, to ensure electors are able to vote conveniently and efficiently. These reviews will not affect the ward boundaries.

Earlier this month a consultation was carried out, and residents were able to give their views regarding the current polling arrangements in these polling districts. They were also invited to suggest possible new locations.

Now a separate consultation is being carried out on the council's initial proposals for new locations. Electors living within these polling districts can make representations from now until Thursday, December 22. Anyone who suggests changes should, if possible, give alternative locations that may be used as polling places or polling ptations.

For polling district BEC in Burscough East it is proposed to designate the park on Heathfields Estate, between Rees Park and Delph Drive as the new polling place.

A mobile unit would be sited on the park for polling days. This would replace the current polling place for the BEC polling district located at the parish hall of St John's Catholic Church, Chapel Lane, Burscough, which is in the neighboring polling district.

'Important'

The BEC polling district area covers all properties to the east of Junction Lane, north of Briars Lane, west of the canal and south of the railway line, including the Heathfields estate, Rees Park, Abbey Dale, Gower Gardens and Alexander Close.

For WRD polling district in Wrightington, it is proposed to designate St Teresa's Catholic Club in College Road, Up Holland as the new polling place, replacing the current polling place located next door at St Teresa's Catholic Primary School.

The WRD polling district area covers the southern part of Roby Mill Parish Ward including Hallbridge Gardens, College Road, Hilldean, Lafford Lane (up to the junction with Whitley Road) and part of Dingle Road and Parliament Street.

Kim Webber, West Lancs returning officer, said: "We would appreciate comments from anyone living in polling districts BEC and WRD, as making sure polling places and stations are in the best possible locations is very important."

The council would also welcome views from any person or body with expertise in access issues.

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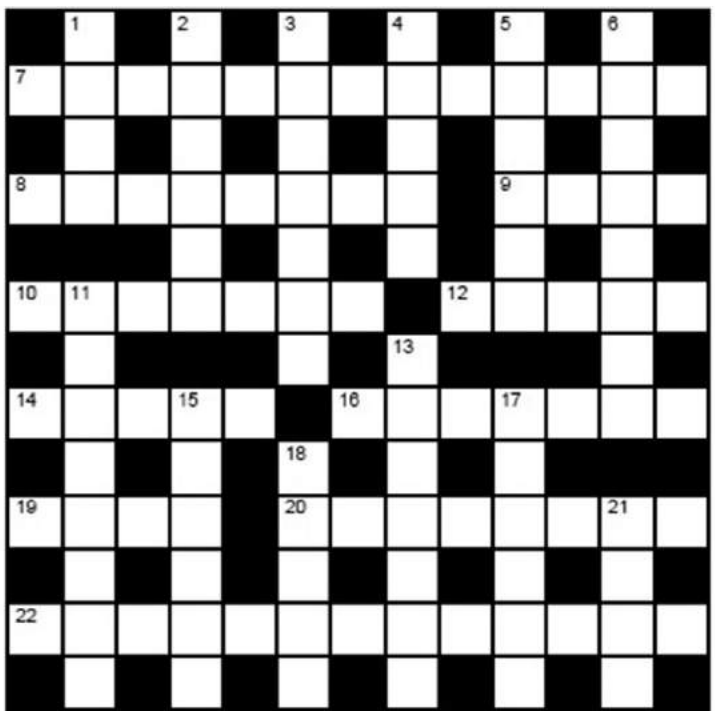

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Hi-tech. 8 Plexus. 9 Rode. 10 Manifold. 11 Keyhole. 13 Jetty. 15 Berth. 16 Betting. 18 Ballyhoo. 19 Ache. 21. Iconic. 22. Eunuch.

Down: 1 Fino. 2 Telephoto lens. 3 Shamble. 4 Spine. 5 Self restraint. 6 Bulletin. 12 Elegance. 14 Devoted. 17 Check. 20 Hack.

ACROSS

7 A crossing between the UK and the USA could be described as this (13)
8 Brittle, silvery-white semi-metal chemical element (8)
9 Narrow road, especially in a rural area (4)
10 Mug in the form of a stout old man in a three-cornered hat (4,3)
12 To mate and reproduce (5)
14 Overthrow (5)
16 A portion of food (7)
19 European plant with arrow-shaped leaves (4)
20 To rummage through discarded material (8)
22 Something that is not immediately liked or appreciated (8,5)

DOWN

1 Metallic element, chemical symbol FE (4)
2 Hostility (6)
3 Style of European architecture, music, and art of the 17th and 18th centuries (7)
4 Former county of NE Wales (5)
5 Branched horn on the head of an adult male deer (6)
6 Irish political party (4,4)
11 Get in the way of (8)
13 Roofed platform along the outside of a house (7)
15 Commotion (6)
17 Character met by Simple Simon in a popular nursery rhyme (6)
18 Small family car made by Vauxhall since 1979 (5)
21 Hinged barrier to a garden or pathway (4)

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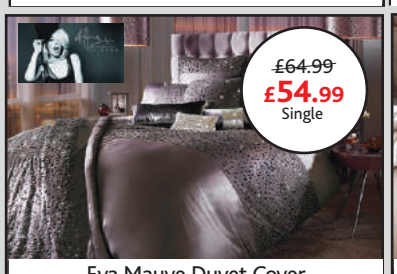

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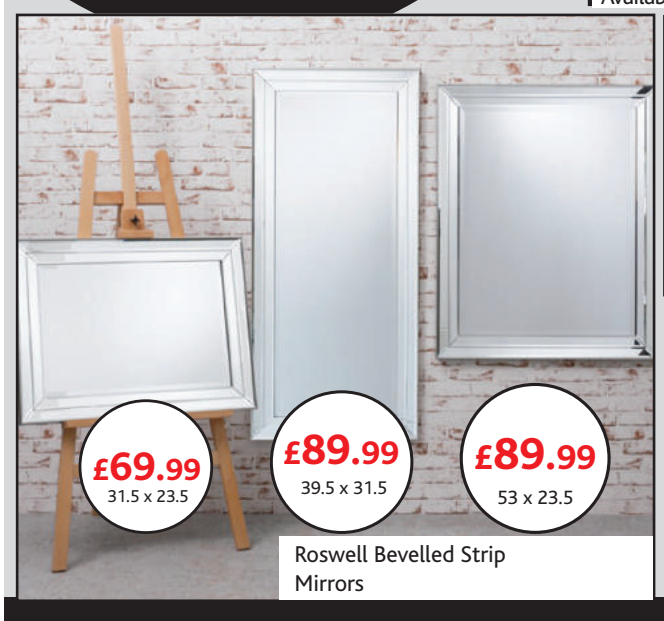

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Safety partnership's 'early warning' to festive revellers

'Don't drink too much, too soon' is the message

WITH Christmas party season soon set to be in full swing, the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership is advising people to think carefully about how much they drink *before* they go out.

While many of us like a couple of drinks at home before going out, the consequences can be serious if you have too much too soon.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for community safety, said: "We really hope everyone has an enjoyable time at Christmas, but people need to be aware that excessive drinking can spoil a great night and have serious and even heartbreaking consequences.

"Our message is about encouraging people not to spoil their nights out by overdoing things before they even make it to the pub or club. You could end up being ill or more vulnerable to being a victim of crime or involved in an accident which could ruin your festive season."

Dave Tilleray, chairman of the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership, added: "When people have too much to drink, they are more likely to lose their friends and possessions, get involved in fights, end up in casualty, or accidentally cause a fire in their home. This can create a real headache for those who are left to pick up the pieces such as the police, medical staff, the fire service or even their friends and family."

Revellers are advised not to drink too much *before* going out

Research carried out over the last few years has highlighted a trend called 'preloading' - people drinking to get drunk at home before going out.

The trend often leads to revellers becoming very drunk earlier in the night and increased levels of crime and other risky behaviour. Cost is also cited as a reason for 'pre-loading' and Christmas often results in more people drinking too much before hitting the town.

West Lancashire police inspector June Chessell said: "We want everyone to enjoy themselves this festive season. But the harm that alcohol can do in our communities should not be underestimated. Excessive drinking increases your likelihood of committing a crime or becoming a victim of crime.

"We work with other agencies, including licensed premises themselves, to try to keep Lancashire's residents and visitors safe."

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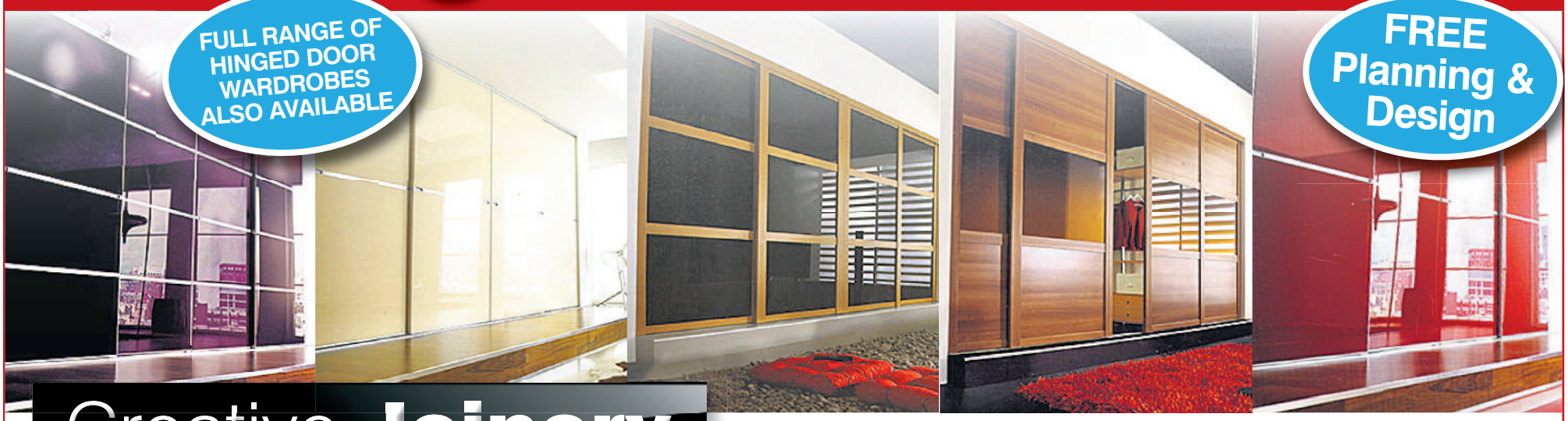

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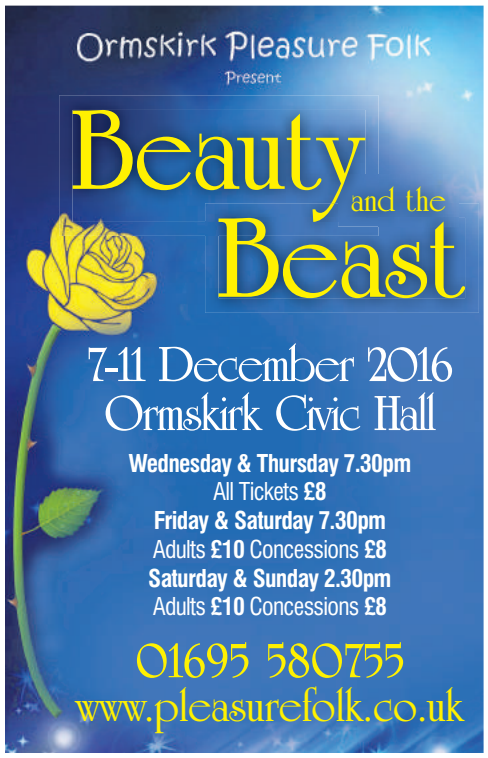

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Champion ENTERTAINMENT

Douglas Music to give hearty welcome to festive season

DOUGLAS Music is to give a hearty welcome to the festive season with The Sound of Brass at Christmas performed by Prince Bishop's Brass, a premier ensemble from the North East.

The event will take place on Saturday, December 10 at 7.45pm in the Arena Auditorium, Parbold Village Hall, WN8 7DN.

This seasonal programme includes ensemble brass pieces that lift the spirits and some traditional Christmas melodies and carols with a little audience participation.

Among the programme are pieces by King Henry VIII, some early music jigs and dances from across Europe, arranged by the brass legend, Elgar Howarth, more modern works like Barber's Adagio for quiet reflection, Northumbrian folk tunes and some of the well-known tunes that give the season its traditional sound.

Prince Bishop's Brass Ensemble was formed by brass playing friends from the North of England, who regularly met up when playing for Symphony Orchestras, Brass Bands and Big Bands.

They decided to get together with a line-up of two Trumpets, French Horn, Trombone and Tuba and because they were based in County Durham the name Prince Bishop's Brass Ensemble was the obvious choice.

Tree Festival being held at church

THERE is to be a tree Festival at Emmanuel Methodist United Reformed Church in Ormskirk at 10am this Saturday (December 3).

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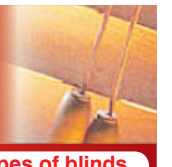

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RUG John Lewis, Perth 110x170, grey. As new condition £29 01704 821720 or 07966101288

Announcements

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

HOWARD FRIEDA

The family would like to thank all relatives and friends for their very kind thoughts of sympathy following their recent sad loss. Special thanks to Doctor C. Nugent and her partners at Ainsdale Medical Centre, the staff at Connell Court Care Home for the excellent care given to Frieda, grateful thanks also to the Reverend Les Thomas for the kind words of comfort and lovely funeral service. Finally thank you to Derek Crawford, Carl and Nicky Howard at Howard's Funeral Directors for their thoughtful funeral arrangements.

DEATHS

DRAPER JOYCE

1926 - 2016
27th November 2016 suddenly,
Aged 90 years

Dear beloved Wife of the late Thomas. Much loved Mum, Nan and Little Nan to all her family. Joyce will be sadly missed by all who knew and loved her. Family flowers only by request please, but the family are gratefully receiving donations for the Stroke Association. Funeral details from and enquiries to Cookson Tyrer Funeralcare, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU. Tel: 01704 897770

LAWRENSON ELLEN

21st November 2016
Peacefully at The Spinney Nursing Home, Upholland, aged 82 years of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Harold, loving Mum of Paul (deceased), Brent, Graham, Keith and Lee, dear Mother-in-law of Sue and Karen and devoted Nan to all her Grand and Great Grandchildren. Funeral service at St Paul's Church, Skelmersdale on Wednesday 30th November 2016 at 2.15pm followed by cremation at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough. Family flowers only please, donations if desired for The Alzheimers Society. All enquiries to H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale, Ormskirk and Scarisbrick. Tel 01695 722122/720012.

DEATHS

FOSTER ALFRED VICTOR

5th November 2016
Aged 94 years

Devoted Husband of Barbara, loving Father to Alison, Sue and Kathy, much loved Grandad of Paul, Matthew, Chris, Vicki, Beth, Kate, Greg and Tim. Cherished Great-Grandad of Aurelia, Rosalind, Ethan, Joshua, Abigail and Archie. Alfred will be greatly missed by all his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Monday 12th December at 10:00am. Family flowers only please but if desired donations are being gratefully received for Parkinson's UK. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

KEOWN STEPHEN (STEVE)

20th November 2016
Peacefully in hospital, aged 64 years

Loving Husband of Maggie, devoted Dad of Mark and Michael, dear Father-in-law of Rebecca and Laura, cherished Grandad of Leon, Aaron, Sofia and Bonnie, loving Brother of Cath, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Monday 5th December at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Hope Charity. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868.

BALDWIN ERIC PETER

On 22nd November 2016
Peacefully in hospital
Aged 80 years

Loving Husband of Ena, devoted Dad of Linda, dear Father in law of John, cherished Grandad of Lisa, Lee and Lauren, Great Grandad of Emily, Lucy, Katie, Joseph and Chloe. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service took place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 29th November. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868

DEATHS

KING EDWARD NORMAN (TED)

Passed away peacefully on 23rd November 2016
Aged 95 years of Aughton.

Dear Husband of the late Winifred Mary, much loved Father, Grandad and Great-Grandad, loved and missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service at St. Michaels Church Aughton on Tuesday 6th December 2016 at 12.45pm, followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request but donations if so desired for Cardinal Heenan House. Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Funeral Directors, 20 Moss Delph Lane, Aughton. Tele. 01695 424888.

IN MEMORIAM

DOYLE JUNE

5th December 2015

In my heart your memory lingers, always tender, fond and true, there's not a day dear June, I do not think of you.

Love and miss you always. Husband Arthur, son Anthony, daughters Tracey and Julie and all the family xxx

DOYLE JUNE

5th December 2015

It's been a sad year June since you left us.

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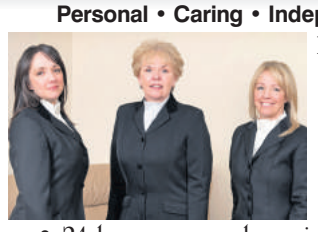

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OVAL MIRROR Lovely gift 26"x48" £10 01704 833795

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ALBA 7" digital photoframe-LCD display. Unused+in box, with instructions. Black/silver. Make nice xmas gift £10 07855222552 or 07821417560

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MISC

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MISC

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After 6pm

PUBLIC NOTICES

Notice of application for Variation of Premises License

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Junk, 12 Church Street, Ormskirk L39 3AN have applied to West Lancashire Borough Council for a variation of Premises License, the following has been applied for:

The proposed variation is to change the licensed hours from 10.00 - 01.30 to 10.00 - 03.00 with alcohol sales until 2.30am on Friday and Saturday (with no change, Sunday to Thursday), and to also allow the screening of films within the licensed hours.

This application can be inspected at West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Section, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley Way, Skelmersdale, WN8 8EE, between the hours of 9.00am and 4.30pm on Monday to Friday inclusive. Brief details can also be obtained from the councils website: http://www.westlancsgov.uk/business/licensing.aspx

Any 'interested party' may make representations in writing to the Council regarding the application before the 23/12/2016. It is an offence, knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and on summary conviction anyone doing so is liable to a fine of £5000.

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Application forms: Please go to http://jobs.lancashire.gov.uk.
Closing date: 9 December 2016.

Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.

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• Round includes: Woodrow, High St (part), Whitestocks, Woodcroft, Wolverton
• Round includes: Windrows, Wigan Rd, Windgate

CRAWFORD
• Round includes: Crawford, Oakleigh, Manor House Dr

UPHOLLAND
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ORMSKIRK/AUGHTON/BURSCOUGH
• Round includes: Churchfields, Church St, Park Rd, Aughton St (part), Derby St West (part), Church Walks, The Stiles
• Round includes: Grammar School Gardens, Grammar School Court, Pinfold Rd, Merchant Rd, Mulbery Cl, Silk Court, Warpers Way, Spinner Mews
• Round includes: Halsall Ln, Halsall Ct, Cottage Ln (part), Church Hill Rd, The Reeds, The Avenue
• Round includes: Liverpool Road North, Orrell Ln, Victoria St, Mart Ln, Orrell Mews, Peets Mill

RUFFORD
• Round includes: Beech Cl, Liverpool Rd, Thornton Cl, Station Rd, Manor House Cl, Church Cl, Diamond Jubilee Rd, Douglas Cl
• Round includes: Brick Kiln Ln, The Hawthornes, Hesketh Gn, New Rd, Willow Gn, Oasis Cl

SCARISBRICK
• Round includes: Southport Rd (part), Bescar Brow Ln, Bullens Ln, Jacksmere Ln

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF PROPOSAL
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(BRIARS LANE, COURSE LANE, LOWRY HILL LANE, NEWBURGH, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH) (REVOCATION AND INTRODUCTION OF 40 MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS) ORDER 201*

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council propose to make the above Speed Limit Order under Section 84 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the **Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to:

1. Revoke "The District Council Of West Lancashire (Briars Lane And Lowry Hill Lane, Burscough And Lathom) A5209 (40 M.P.H. Speed Limit) Order 1983" as set out below;

a. 40mph Speed Restriction, Briars Lane And Lowry Hill Lane, from a point 34 metres west of the centre point of Morton House Bridge to a point 165 metres west of the centre line of Moss Bridge Lane;

2. Introduce a 40mph speed restriction in the following lengths of road;

a. Briars Lane, Newburgh, from a point 135 metres south east of the centreline of the junction with Wheat Lane in a south easterly direction to its junction with Lowry Hill Lane;

b. Course Lane, Newburgh, from its junction with Lowry Hill Lane in a south easterly direction to a point 246 metres south east of the centreline of the junction with Back Lane;

c. Lowry Hill Lane, Newburgh, the entire length.

A copy of the draft Order and associated documents for proposing to make the Order may be inspected during normal office hours at the offices of West Lancashire Borough Council, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, L39 2DF and at the offices of The Director of Governance Finance & Public Services, Lancashire County Council, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ. Any representations or objections (specifying the grounds on which they are made) relating to the proposal must be made in writing and should be sent to The Director of Governance, Finance & Public Services, Lancashire County Council, PO Box 78, County Hall, Preston PR1 8XJ or by e-mail to tro-consultation@lancashire.gov.uk **quoting ref:LSG4\894.3209\AFR** before the 28 December 2016

Ian Young, Director of Governance, Finance and Public Services
30 November 2016.

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

THE LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO'S 3 & 4 LYDIATE & 21, 30 (PART), 31 & 32 AUGHTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for Transport has agreed to the above Order (which was due to expire on the 16th December, 2016) remaining in force until the 16th June, 2017, or until the works are completed within this period. The effect of which is to temporarily prohibit any pedestrian from proceeding over those lengths of Public Footpath No's 3 & 4 Lydiate and 21, 30 (part), 31 & 32 Aughton, Borough of West Lancashire, indicated below:-

Public Footpath No. 3 Lydiate, West Lancashire, commencing from Point A (GR SD 3763 0661) at its junction with Green's Lane and running in a general easterly direction for a distance of approximately 126 metres to Point B (GR SD 3776 0659) then turning in a north easterly direction and running for a distance of approximately 232 metres to Point C (GR SD 3788 0676) and its junction with FP33 Aughton, West Lancashire.

Public Footpath No. 4 Lydiate, West Lancashire, commencing from Point D (GR SD 3733 0595) at its junction with Green's Lane and running in a general north easterly direction for a distance of approximately 664 metres to Point E (GR SD 3378 0625) and its junction with FP32 Aughton, West Lancashire.

Public Footpath No. 32 Aughton, West Lancashire, commencing from Point E (GR SD 3378 0625) and running in a general northerly direction for a distance of approximately 370 metres to Point B (GR SD 3776 0659) and its junction with FP3 Lydiate, West Lancashire.

Part of Public Footpath No. 30 Aughton, West Lancashire, commencing from its junction with FP8 Aughton at Point F (GR SD 3810 0626) and running in a general southerly direction for a distance of approximately 993 metres to Point G (GR SD 3821 0543) and its junction with Back Lane, Aughton, West Lancashire.

Public Footpath No. 21 Aughton, West Lancashire, commencing from Point H (GR SD 3822 0544) and running in a general south easterly direction for a distance of approximately 656 metres to Point I (GR SD 3873 0519) and its junction with the A59 (Northway), Aughton, West Lancashire.

Public Footpath No. 31 Aughton, West Lancashire, commencing from Point H (GR SD 3822 0544) and running in a general northerly direction for a distance of approximately 809 metres to Point J (GR SD 3848 0618) and its junction with FP28 & 29 Aughton, West Lancashire.

The closure is necessary due to works proposed to be and being executed on or near the routes, said works being the laying of a new pipeline.

Access for pedestrians to any premises situated on or adjacent to the footpaths, or to any other premises accessible for pedestrians from, and only from, the footpaths, will be maintained at all times.

Nothing in the order shall apply to emergency service vehicles

I YOUNG, Director of Governance, Finance & Public Services, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, PRESTON PR1 8XJ

NOT PART OF THE STATUTORY NOTICE

The plan on site shows the routes to be closed as A-B-C, D-E, E-B, F-G, H-I & H-J. Lancashire County Council is informed that alternative routes are provided using D-A-K & I-L-J-M

Please contact the Rights of Way Team on 01772 532613 if necessary.

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(JACKSONS COMMON LANE, SCARISBRICK, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council intend to make an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle to proceed over the whole length of Jacksons Common Lane, in the borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative daily from 0700 hours until 1700 hours on Monday 12th December 2016 to Friday 16th December 2016 or, until completion of the works within this period.
3. No alternative route for vehicles is available as Jacksons Common Lane is a cul de sac

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow essential highways maintenance works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made: Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT16/08/5828/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

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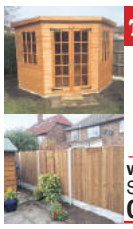

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West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/0758/FUL New vehicular access at 40 Cobbs Brow Lane, Newburgh.

Application No: 2016/1102/FUL Retrospective application for single storey extensions after demolition of existing outbuildings at 8 & 10 Holly Lane, Rufford.

Application No: 2016/1185/FUL Proposed 2 No. 4 bed detached dwellings including associated external works on existing car park to the railway hotel (public house), and alterations to vehicle/pedestrian access at Railway Hotel, 1 Station Road, Parbold.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration
Dated: 30th November 2016
PDNOT925

Licensing Act 2003
Notice of application for a New Premises Licence

Name of applicant: Co-operative Group Food Limited

Address of Premises: Co-op, (former Ropers Arms Public House), 52 Wigan Road, Ormskirk L39 2AU (New Build)

The licensable activities will be for the sale of alcohol for consumption off the premises between Monday-Sunday 06:00-23:00. Conditions will apply.

Anyone wishing to make a representation to this application may do so by **22 December 2016**

A record of the application made to the Licensing Authority will be kept on a register at the address given below and the register may be inspected during normal office hours.

All representations regarding this application MUST BE IN WRITING and sent to:

West Lancashire Borough Council, Licensing Service, Robert Hodge Centre, Stanley way Skelmersdale, West Lancashire, WN8 8EE

Or www.westlancs.gov.uk

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FINAL PAYMENT	£3,629.50
TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE	£11,126.46
REPRESENTITIVE APR	4.9%

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- Automatic Air Con
- Front Fog Lights
- Electronic Stability Control and Vehicle Stability Management

CASH PRICE	£7,750
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36 MONTHLY PAYMENTS OF	£149.53
FINAL PAYMENT	£3,009
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REPRESENTITIVE APR	4.9%

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Brand New Vauxhall Adam Energized 1.2 3dr

Cash Price	£13,965
Deposit Paid by Vauxhall	£1,500
Scrappage Allowance	£1,500
Customer Deposit	£159
Amount of Credit	£10,806
47 Monthly Payments	£159.78
Optional Final Payment	£4,414
Interest Charges	£1,117.66
Total Amount Payable	£15,082.66
APR	3.7%

WE GIVE YOU

£1500 Finance Deposit Allowance | **£1500** Scrappage Allowance

YOU PAY ONLY

£149 Per Month | **NIL** Deposit

Brand New Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 75PS Energy 3dr

Cash Price	£12,462.00
Deposit Paid by Vauxhall	£1,100.00
Scrappage Allowance	£1,500.00
Customer Deposit	NIL
Amount of Credit	£9,862.00
Arrangement Fee	£149.00
Credit Arrangement Fee	£149.00
47 Monthly Payments of	£149.00
Optional Final Payment	£3,868.00
Interest Charges	£1,009.00
Total Amount Payable	£11,169.00
APR	4.8%

WE GIVE YOU

£1100 Finance Deposit Allowance | **£1500** Scrappage Allowance

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YOU PAY ONLY

£169 Per Month | **£169** Deposit

Brand New Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 Limited Edition 75PS

Cash Price	£12,792.85
Customer Deposit	£169
Deposit Paid by Vauxhall	£1100
Amount Financed	£11,523.86
47 Monthly Payments	£169
Interest	£1,197.15
Optional Final Payment	£4778
Total Amount Payable	£13,990
APR	4.6%

WE GIVE YOU

£1100 Finance Deposit Allowance | **£1500** Scrappage Allowance

YOU PAY ONLY

£199 Per Month | **£499** Deposit

Brand New Vauxhall Mokka X Active 1.6i 5dr

Cash Price	£18,595
Deposit Paid by Vauxhall	£2,400
Scrappage Allowance	£2,000
Customer Deposit	£499
Amount of Credit	£13,596
47 Monthly Payments	£199.43
Optional Final Payment	£5,635
Interest Charges	£1,412.21
Total Amount Payable	£20,007.21
APR	3.7%

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£2400 Finance Deposit Allowance | **£2000** Scrappage Allowance

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Brand New Vauxhall Astra 1.4i Energy Special Edition 5dr

Cash Price	£16,981
Deposit Paid by Vauxhall	£1,000
Scrappage Allowance	£2,000
Customer Deposit	£199
Amount of Credit	£13,782
47 Monthly Payments	£199.59
Optional Final Payment	£5,842
Interest Charges	£1,440.73
Total Amount Payable	£18,421.73
APR	3.7%

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YOU PAY ONLY

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Brand New Vauxhall Mokka 1.6i Exclusiv 5dr

Cash Price	£15,911.25
Customer Deposit	£189
Deposit Paid by Vauxhall	£3000
Amount Financed	£12,722.25
47 Monthly Payments	£189
Interest	£1,312.75
Optional Final Payment	£5,152
Total Amount Payable	£17,224
APR Representative	3.7%

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£3000 Finance Deposit Allowance | **£2000** Scrappage Allowance

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ONLY £149 PER MONTH* 0% APR REPRESENTATIVE

5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT

KIA RIO — 2015 REG

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5 YEARS 0% FINANCE NO DEPOSIT

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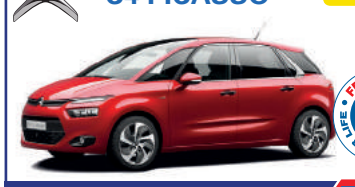

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£10,037.51	£149*	£149.00	£3,651	£11,303	

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£1500* DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION

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£12,616.70	£189*	£189	£3,443	£14,015	

£189 PER MONTH* | £189 DEPOSIT

CITROËN C4 CACTUS

£1500* DEPOSIT CONTRIBUTION

PERSONAL CONTRACT PURCHASE AGREEMENT (PCP)

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MIGHT as well cut straight to the chase. *The Grand Tour* is thoroughly enjoyable. With all the right ingredients and a reported budget of £160 million, how could it not be?

But to misquote one of the very, very many Jeremy Clarkson one-liners out there it's not enough for this new show to be making waves – it should be ripping the Pacific Ocean clean in half. Based on the first two episodes I'm not quite sure it's there yet.

Judge it on its opening salvo alone – as pretty much every pundit from Preston to Peru has – and you'll be hard pressed not to conclude the ex-Beeb trio's wiped the floor with Chris Evans' stint at the wheel of a certain other motoring show.

Where Evans' *Top Gear* made being pally with celebs one of the most cringe-worthy tenets *The Grand Tour* turned not speaking to famous people into an artform.

Top Gear struggled for years with their mystery racing drivers revealing themselves, but *The Grand Tour* deliberately identified theirs from the off as an American with views completely opposed to the main presenters.

Most crucially of all, Jeremy, James and Richard set out their stall as motoring journalists – car show presenters who know what they're on about – while their rival stuttered with a Radio 2 DJ, an F1 team boss and the one where they got the bloke from *Friends* in.

So the first episode was beautifully polished, authoritative and had just the right laugh-out-loud factor. But the second? Unless the half hour segment about the trio taking on a military base was an extraordinarily long preamble to a three-minute Audi test right at the end, I and a legion of other car nuts were completely lost. It dragged on and felt bloated.

We all know what the now-*Grand Tour* trio do brilliantly. Delicately shot and meticulously edited drives of fast cars in beautiful landscapes. *Boys' Own*-esque adventures on far-flung bits of the globe. Loosely concocted challenges used as an excuse for secondhand Porsches to fall apart in increasingly amusing ways, with the occasional Hovervan chucked in for good measure. I really hope Amazon's budget allows for more of it, not less.

The Grand Tour is friendlier and more enjoyable than the most recent series of *Top Gear* – which in itself wasn't that bad – but the moments that prick up the national consciousness are yet to appear in either.

The indestructible Toyota Hilux, journeys to the North Pole and attempts to send Reliant Robins into space aren't there yet. It's more of what you love – but nothing you weren't expecting.

The Grand Tour might have broken the ice and some viewing records (according to Amazon at least, as it won't release the figures), but it hasn't broken any boundaries.

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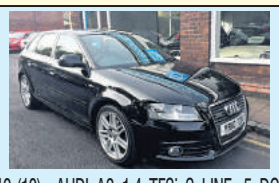

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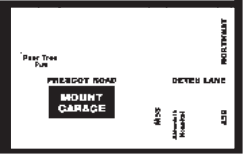

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Chad Whyte - on the scoresheet against Grantham Town wth a header

Sore point for battling Skem

Lawson hits out at referee after United denied victory

Grantham Town 1 Skelmersdale Utd 1

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

MANAGER Tommy Lawson believes his side were denied three points by a poor referee decision after a last minute winner was chalked off for an apparent foul in the build-up.

With the score at 1-1 and the game edging towards a draw, the away side had the ball in the back of the net following a cross into the box and a header from Michael Grogan.

However, Skem had to settle for a point after the referee ruled there was a foul in the build-up.

Tommy Lawson said: "Let's be brutal about it, in my opinion we were denied a very good goal at the end of the game, the referee saw it differently, both managers said it was a goal.

"Grantham's manager agreed he didn't see anything wrong with the goal. The referee was wrong, he made a mistake."

The home side started the match on the back of a 3-0 and a 2-0 victory, so it was going to be a test for Skem.

In the early stages, Grantham had more of the possession but Skelmersdale defended well and there wasn't a real chance until the 20th minute when Lee Shaw fired into the side-netting.

Skelmersdale gradually came into the game as an attacking force and Luke Wall saw his shot parried away by home goalkeeper Kieran Preston after he held off a challenge from Luther Wildin on 24 minutes.

The visitors probably had their best opportunity of the half on 37 minutes, Jason Jeffries slipped the ball to Chad Whyte but his shot went wide of the far post.

It was not the last action of the half though, in the 42nd minute Whyte had a shot blocked and the ball ran to Max Hazeldine, but his shot was tipped around the post by keeper Preston.

Skelmersdale struck eleven minutes after the restart. Kenny Strickland hoisted a free-kick into the penalty area, Grogan got up and headed it into an area on the edge of the six yard box, Whyte bravely chased, got there first and lifted a header over advancing goalkeeper Preston.

The Grantham response was instant, the impressive Harry Clifton thundering in a low shot from 25 yards that Martin Fearon did well to tip around his post with a full length dive.

In the 82nd minute Grantham levelled. The ball was not cleared properly after a challenge by the left side corner flag, Wright was given time to put in a quality cross and Batchelor evaded the Skem defence then smacked a powerful header into the Skem net.

Skem went on the offensive again, Hazeldine was thwarted by Preston and Grantham put in a couple of threatening efforts from distance when they counter-attacked.

On 90 minutes, Tom Ince swung a free-kick into the goalmouth from the right side, no one got a touch until Grogan fired a close range header past Preston.

The referee's whistle only went after the ball entered the net and he pointed for a free-kick. After a lenghty conversation between him and Grogan, play restarted with a free-kick.

Tommy Lawson added: "I thought it was a smashing performance, I am really pleased with the commitment the players showed. Would we have accepted a draw before the game? Probably we would have done but we were denied a very good goal."

Tricky trio of away games lie in wait for Skelmersdale

SKELMERSDALE United's improved form will be put to the test over the next three weeks as they face three consecutive away games.

All this means they are not scheduled to play at the Uretek Stadium again until Saturday, December 17 when Rushall Olympic come to town.

The news that last night's (Tuesday, November 29) home fixture against Frickley Athletic was a victim of the frost was disappointing for the Skem support, it also means that Skelmersdale face a tough run of matches.

Having played at Grantham last Saturday, they travel to Barwell this coming Saturday, December 3, then Buxton on Saturday, December 10 and Nantwich Town on Tuesday, December 13, all grounds on which Skelmersdale got beaten last season.

Skelmersdale head down to Leicestershire on Saturday with some serious hope though. Barwell have only won three out of 10 home games this season and actually have a better away record in the league than home record.

Skelmersdale have shown a big change in their general ethos away from home since the arrival of the new signings, well evidenced by Saturday's near miss and the excellent performances prior to that at promotion chasing Rushall and Stourbridge, so they won't have the negativity that they had before on their travels.

However, despite being without captain Kenny Strickland who will serve a one game suspension at Barwell, Skelmersdale manager Tommy Lawson has a squad that is gathering strength game by game.

Lawson revealed that injured right-back Alex Davies is due to return from an ankle injury he acquired at Spennymoor and was indeed expected to be in the squad for last night's match against Frickley.

Tom Ince is improving his fitness after a hamstring injury and appeared as substitute at Grantham last week setting up the disallowed 'winning goal' that has been the talk of Skelmersdale supporters all week.

There is a clean bill of health from those that went to Lincolnshire last week, plus the possibility of a new signing in the offing.

There is news of why Tony Rendell has been absent - he apparently has had some family business to deal with but is not quite 100% after his ankle injury and isn't expected to take part this week, but the club is hopeful that he will recover the week after.

News of another signing is the arrival of Harry Caine at the Uretek Stadium, a teenage winger from Altrincham, who has reportedly done very well in training.

Linnets game falls victim to weather

BURSCOUGH hope to return to league action this weekend with a trip to Radcliffe Borough.

Last Saturday's match away at Kendal Town was postponed due to the weather and that will have to be rescheduled, but it leaves the Linnets raring to go against mid-table Radcliffe this Saturday at 3pm.

The Linnets are still without an away win this season and are fighting to climb off the bottom of the table.

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